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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,568	04/02/2002	Jarle Rogn Jacobsen	02405.0214	4496

7590 09/05/2003

Finnegan HNederson Farabow Garrett & Dunner
1300 I Street N W
Washington, DC 20005

EXAMINER

PATEL, MOTILAL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3611

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/089,568

Applicant(s)

JACOBSEN ET AL.

Examiner

Motilal P. Patel

Art Unit

3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 mont MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8-10 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 7, 11-13 and 18-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The amendments filed on July 8, 2003 are hereby acknowledged and have been placed of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsumoto (U. S. Patent No. 5,386,347).

In regard to claim 1, Matsumoto shows in figures 1,2, and 4-8 an illuminated sign or arrangement comprising at least one light distribution plate (A) having a plurality of parallel grooves (9), Matsumoto discloses in column 7, lines 20-23 that the grooves can be in the form of lines, at least one light source (L) extending transverse to the parallel grooves, and a reflector plate (7). In regard to claim 2, Matsumoto shows in figures 6-8 first and second light distribution plates (A, A). In regard to claim 3, Matsumoto shows in figures 6-8 a light reflector plate (10) between the two light distribution plates. In regard to claim 4, Matsumoto shows in figure 1 a diffuser plate (1) and defines in column 5, lines 15-19 the idea of placing a film on the non-grooved side of the light distribution plate (A). In regard to claim 6, Matsumoto in Fig. 1, shows the light diffuser

Art Unit: 3611

plate (1) covers the light distribution plate (A). In regard to claim 8, Matsumoto in Figs. 2, shows the grooves (9) being terminated a short distance from the end edges of the light distribution plate (A). In regard to claim (9), Matsumoto. in Fig.2, clearly shows a light (L) on end edge of the light distribution plate (A). In regard to claim 10, Matsumoto, in Fig. 2, shows two lights (L) on each end of the light distribution plate (A). In regard to claim 14, Matsumoto shows in figures 6-8, light distribution plates (A, A) having parallel grooves. In regard to claim 15, Matsumoto shows in figures 6-8, light distribution plates (A, A) having parallel grooves in each plate (A) and the grooves in one distribution plate (A) are laterally offset from grooves in another distribution plate (A). In regard to claim 16, Matsumoto, in column 5, line 31, discloses the cold cathode tube. In regard to claim 17, Matsumoto, in column 5, line 39, discloses the fluorescent tube.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al.(U. S. Patent No. 5,600,455).

Ishikawa shows in figure 10, an illuminated sign or arrangement comprising at least one light distribution plate (12) having a plurality of parallel grooves (13), at least one light source (3) extending transverse to the parallel grooves (13), and a diffuser plate (7).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (U. S. Patent 5,408,388).

Kobayashi shows in figure 1, an illuminated sign or arrangement (1) comprising at least one light distribution plate (2) having a plurality of parallel grooves (21), at least

Art Unit: 3611

one light source (3) extending transverse to the parallel grooves (21), and a diffuser plate (4) and a reflector plate (5).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 7, 11-13, 18-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on July 8, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Matsumoto fails to disclose the spaced apart grooves in the light distribution plate.

The examiner disagrees since Matsumoto (5,386,347), in Fig. 2 and Figs. 6-8 clearly discloses spaced apart grooves (9) in the light distribution plate (A). See attached sheets showing Fig. ²~~1~~ and Figs. 6-8.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

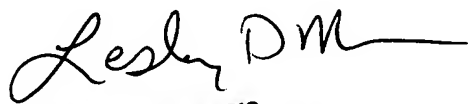
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Motilal P. Patel whose telephone number is 703-305-5141. The examiner can normally be reached on Tues-Fri 7:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 703-308-0629. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.


LESLEY D. MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

mp
August 14, 2003

FIG. 6

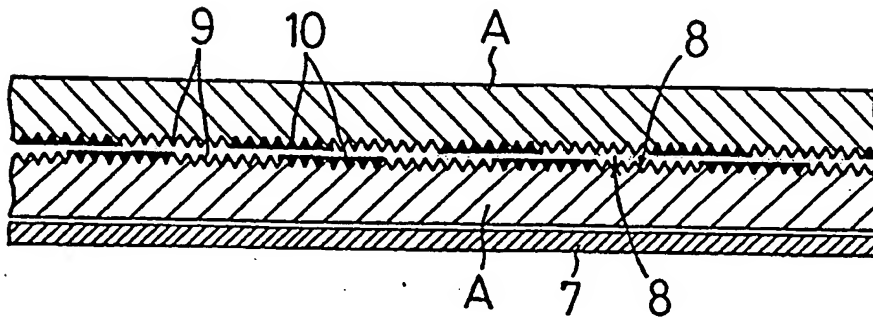


FIG. 7

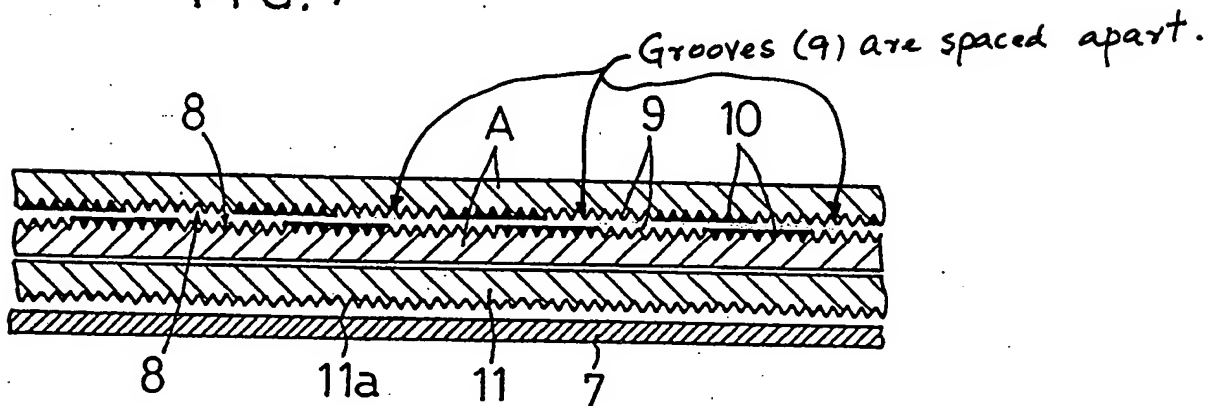


FIG. 8

